

Iowa Outdoors
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
www.iowadnr.com

Editor: Mick Klemesrud, 515/281-8653
mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us

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GRANTS BOOST CONSERVATION EDUCATION IN IOWA

DES MOINES - More than \$400,000 in grants has been issued by the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Conservation Education Board for 15 Iowa conservation education projects.

The REAP education board received requests for more than \$700,000 in funding for 29 different projects. About \$540,000 was available for grants, but the board chose to retain about \$140,000 for a grant round with a Nov. 15, 2004 submission deadline.

Governor Tom Vilsack recently signed an \$11 million appropriation to fund the REAP formula in the coming year with portions going to city, county and state parks, habitat development and land purchase; prairie roadside management; historical renovation; soil conservation activities; and conservation education. Funds are allocated to these programs by a formula set in law.

Conservation education grants typically are used for innovative projects that will eventually become self-sustaining and widely adopted for use by others. Matching funds are not required, although preferred. The 15 grants recently approved included an additional \$400,000 in matching expenses from grantees. Grant requests were due May 15. Additional details of the process are available at the website: www.iowaee.org. Grants approved (rounded figures) included:

- \$14,000 to University of Northern Iowa for waste reduction education of pre-service and in-service teachers.

- \$30,000 to Des Moines Park and Recreation to develop 'rain garden' demonstration areas and tool kits to encourage establishment of additional rain gardens. (Rain gardens retain storm water runoff in urban areas.)
- \$18,000 to the Iowa 4-H Foundation for pre-service teacher training on food production and the environment; and \$27,000 to match environmental education programs to the No Child Left Behind education requirements.
- \$33,000 to the E-Resources Group to introduce toddlers to outdoor recreation and environmental interests.
- \$17,000 to the Iowa Conservation Education Council for an educator workshop.
- \$30,000 to the Iowa Academy of Science for teacher training in water quality issues.
- \$52,000 to the Iowa Audubon Chapter to network with and provide habitat development training to land managers for nongame species of birds.
- \$31,000 to the Henry A. Wallace Birthplace Foundation to integrate the environment and organic food production into reading programs.
- \$26,000 to Indian Creek Nature Center to expand conservation education to home school teachers.
- \$44,000 to Urban Resources and Boarderland Alliance Network to work with citizens and community planners for sustainable development planning along new transportation routs around the east and south sides of Des Moines.
- \$40,000 to the Story County Conservation Board to develop a conservation education program for early childhood educators.
- \$11,000 to Friends of Hartman Reserve for development of an after-school conservation education program; and \$22,000 for a multi-county, lions in Iowa educational program.
- \$19,000 to the Red Rock Environmental Education Fund to develop a bald eagle DVD for educators and students.

**For more information, contact: Ross Harrison at 515-281-5973,
ross.harrison@dnr.state.ia.us**

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DNR TO PARTNER WITH LOCAL GROUPS ON THREE GROW IOWA VALUES PROJECTS

DES MOINES—The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) State Parks bureau is finalizing the details to begin work on three projects as part of Grow Iowa Values Fund.

Through a special appropriation in the Grow Iowa Values Fund, \$500,000 has been made available for projects in state parks and destination parks that focus on improving state parks and destination parks for economic development purposes.

"Because there are so many parks and local communities that could benefit from the funding, the department issued a challenge to the local state park friends groups to cost-share a park project through fundraising," said Kevin Szcodronski, bureau chief of state parks. "As a result of the challenge we have three outstanding park projects and we have involvement and support from the local communities. It is a win-win situation for all partners."

The three projects selected to receive the funding are camping cabin development at Brushy Creek State Recreation Area in Webster County, nature center/lodge development at Nine Eagles State Park in Decatur County and a campground renovation and camping cabin development project at Stone State Park in Woodbury County.

The Brushy Creek project includes building 12 seasonal camping cabins and two pit toilets through a partnership with Prairie Rivers RC&D, Friends of Brushy Creek and Iowa Central Community College. The project will have a direct benefit for the surrounding communities through increased overnight stays at the park and associated spending. Another added economic benefit with this project is the use of Iowa hardwood cants for the design and construction of the camping cabins.

The Stone park project involves upgrading the existing campground by constructing a new shower building, adding five RV sites and upgrading the campsite electrical to 50 amps. Two seasonal camping cabins will also be constructed in the campground area offering visitors an alternative for overnight accommodations. The expected increase in park usage resulting from this project would complement all other recent improvements in the Siouxland region.

The third project to receive funding is the construction of a nature center and lodge at Nine Eagles State Park. There is no comparable facility that currently exists in Decatur County, which is in a long-term economically depressed area. The construction of a lodge will accommodate large group gatherings for local and regional organizations, businesses and families and will complement all other recreational opportunities and special events in the area. The creation of nature center in the lodge will also provide an excellent educational opportunity for the local schools as well as visitors to the area.

"The residents of Decatur County are excited to partner with the State of Iowa to boost our economy by developing new opportunities to enjoy Nine Eagles State Park and increase tourism in our county," said Colleen Hastings, executive director of Decatur County Development Corporation. "The Friends of Nine Eagles appreciates the opportunity to work cooperatively with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to bring improvements to the state park by expanding the recreational and education opportunities at Nine Eagles."

For more information on the park projects, contact Angela Corio, DNR landscape architect, at 515/281-4579.

IOWA FISHING REPORT

For the week of June 8, 2004

www.iowadnr.com

For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

Northwest

Spirit Lake (Dickinson): Walleyes continue to be caught over many areas of the lake including Reed's Run, Buffalo Run, Anglers Bay and Big Stoney Point. A number of presentations are producing fish. Use Lindy rigs with leeches or minnows, troll crankbaits or cast jigs and twisters in 12 to 18 feet of water. Walleyes are also being caught during the middle of the night at the old footbridge. Sorting is required to catch legal fish. Remember, there is a 14-inch minimum length limit on walleyes, with one fish over 20 inches on the Iowa Great Lakes. Crappie fishing is fair in Anglers Bay and Hales Slough. Use mini-jigs or flies in the bulrushes for the best results. Anglers are still catching some bluegills. Smallmouth bass are being caught in spawning areas on the east side of the lake. Use soft plastic baits. Largemouth bass are being caught by Hales Slough, Anglers Bay and around docks using plastic worms. Huge bullheads are being caught at the Grade and Hales Slough.

Little Spirit Lake (Dickinson): Anglers are still catching nice sized bullheads at the Little Spirit tubes. Some nice walleyes are also being caught.

West Okoboji (Dickinson): The best technique to catch walleye is long-line trolling crankbaits. Anglers are catching some bluegills and crappies around the docks. Largemouth bass fishing is also best around docks. White bass fishing is good in Haywards Bay using jigs.

East Okoboji (Dickinson): Anglers are sorting through a lot of sub-legal walleyes to catch a keeper. Crappie and bluegill are biting around the docks.

Twelve Mile Lake (Emmet): Bullhead fishing is good.

Little Sioux River (Clay): Channel catfish fishing has been outstanding. Limits of 1 to 2-pound fish are easily taken using prepared stink baits in the snags.

Lake Pahoja (Lyon): Catfish are being caught at night using stink bait.

Rock River (Lyon): Catfish fishing has been good using traditional baits.

Lost Island (Clay and Palo Alto): Anglers fishing from boats are starting to catch walleyes. Try leeches and spinners.

Willow Creek (Osceola): Largemouth bass are being caught using buzzbaits, plastic worms and plastic frogs. Anglers are encouraged to practice catch and release.

Ocheyedan Pits (Osceola): Bluegills are being caught on small jigs tipped with a night crawler or wax worm. Fish size ranges from 6 to 8 inches.

Mill Creek (O'Brien): Bluegill and crappie have been biting. The fish are on the small size – 6 to 7 inches.

Dog Creek (O'Brien): Bullhead fishing has been red hot. The fish are mostly 7 to 9 inches, but are being caught by the buckets full.

Black Hawk Lake (Sac): Channel catfish are excellent on liver, night crawlers and shad entrails.

Arrowhead Lake (Sac): Fishing is good for bluegills up to 8 inches.

Storm Lake (Buena Vista): Channel catfish fishing is excellent around rocky areas and the points on a variety of baits.

Brushy Creek (Webster): Bluegill fishing is good in shallow water.

Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo): Yellow bass fishing is fair around Dodge's Point, the Island and outlet. Use small jigs and minnows casting into the shoreline. Walleye fishing is good using live bait and spinners or trolling crankbaits. The north shore has been the best for walleye. Remember the 14-inch minimum length limit. Bullhead fishing is good using night crawlers on the bottom. Channel catfish are hitting on chicken liver and dead chubs.

Beeds Lake (Franklin): Anglers are catching crappies while drift fishing and fishing around jetties. Use small jigs and minnows. The crappies range from 7 to 9 inches.

Rice Lake (Worth and Winnebago): Bullhead fishing is good using night crawlers on the windy shorelines.

Silver Lake (Worth): Bullhead fishing is good using night crawlers. Yellow perch are being caught from the fishing jetty using minnows.

Briggs Woods (Hamilton): Bluegills are hitting on small jigs and pieces of night crawler. Channel catfish are hitting on chicken liver and prepared baits.

Upper Pine – Lower Pine (Hardin): Crappie fishing is good using minnows and small jigs around the downed trees.

For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.

Southwest

Three Mile (Union): Channel catfish are being caught with night crawlers or cut baits. Crappies are moving out to 8 to 10 feet of water. Bluegills are biting on night crawlers or wax worms in shallow areas. Largemouth bass and walleye fishing is good all over the lake.

Twelve Mile (Union): Fishing for channel catfish is good using night crawlers or liver. Walleyes are being caught using leeches.

Icaria (Adams): Fishing is good for catfish using night crawlers, cut bait and liver.

Green Valley (Union): Crappies are being caught over structure in 8 to 10 feet of water. Some nice bluegill can be caught in the shallows with night crawlers or wax worms. Channel catfish can be caught in the bays using night crawlers.

Little River (Decatur): Crappies are biting over rocks or in flooded trees in 8 to 10 feet of water. Catfish can be caught in the bays using liver or night crawlers.

Slip Bluff (Decatur): Channel catfish are being caught in the bays.

West Lake Osceola (Clarke): Bluegill and largemouth bass fishing is excellent in the timbered coves and along the dam. Crappies are in 8 to 10 feet of water in the flooded trees.

Old Corning (Adams): Bluegills are biting well along the dam and in the bays on night crawlers or wax worms.

Fogle Lake (Ringgold): Crappies can be caught in the flooded trees. Some bluegill can be caught off the west shore and in the west bay.

Walnut Creek Marsh (Ringgold): Bluegill and crappie can be caught along the south shore and around the jetties.

Windmill Lake (Taylor): Bluegills can be caught with night crawlers in the shallows.

Big Creek (Polk): Water clarity remains poor following the heavy rains. Crappie fishing is still slow, although some fish are being taken in deeper water. Bluegill fishing is slow to fair with bluegill 8 inches or larger common. Walleye fishing has been fair using Lindy and spinner rigs with minnows and night crawlers, although most of the walleye are below the 15-inch minimum length limit. Channel catfish fishing has picked up using traditional baits. A few largemouth bass have been caught using casting plugs, although most remain below the legal length limit.

Lake Ahquabi (Warren): Bluegill fishing has been good using jigs with worms, with some anglers doing well using twister tails. Largemouth bass fishing has been good, with some fish caught with top-water lures.

Hooper Lake (Warren): Bluegill fishing has been good using worms and jigs. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair to good.

Don Williams (Boone): Crappie fishing is good using minnows and jigs in shallow water along the shoreline. Bluegill fishing is good. Channel catfish fishing is good using night crawlers and cut baits toward the north end of the lake. Largemouth bass fishing has been good on surface plugs and crankbaits.

Rock Creek Lake (Jasper): Crappie fishing is good using night crawlers or minnows and jigs, although fish have moved to deeper water. Channel catfish fishing is fair to good using night crawlers. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair using jigs and casting lures.

Red Rock (Marion): Fishing has slowed over the past week because of the higher water levels. Anglers had been catching crappie, usually 10 inches or larger, and white bass on jigs and minnows in the bays and coves. Channel catfish fishing has improved with better fishing in the bays and coves using night crawlers and worms.

Red Rock tailwater (Marion): Crappie and white bass fishing has been good in the tailwater using jigs and minnows. Channel catfish fishing has improved with the increase in water levels.

Roberts Creek (Marion): Crappie fishing has been good using jigs with minnows and/or night crawlers and channel catfish have been hitting on night crawlers.

Easter Lake (Polk): Fishing has been good for 8 to 9-inch crappies on jigs and minnows. A few walleyes have been caught while crappie fishing. Channel catfish fishing has picked up with the warmer water, with most caught on stink baits.

Saylorville Lake (Polk): White bass and crappie fishing has been slow in the marina area. The reservoir is high and turbid. There is considerable floating debris and boaters need to be extra cautious on the reservoir.

Viking (Montgomery): Crappies are fair. Bluegill fishing has picked up and is very good using tube jigs along shoreline and around structure. Channel catfish fishing is good using night crawlers or liver. Largemouth bass fishing has picked up in the evening around structure.

Cold Springs (Cass): Fishing is good for bluegills near shore.

Manawa (Pottawattamie): Fishing is excellent for channel catfish on Boy Scout Island. A few crappies are being caught in the lagoon. Walleyes are being caught along rocks on the west shore.

Orient (Adair): Fishing is fair for 7-inch crappies using jigs and/or minnows along the dam, and the southeast shore near the water pump house. Anglers are also catching small bluegills. Channel catfish fishing is good.

Mormon Trail (Adair): Walleye fishing is good using crankbaits or jigs. The 7 to 9-inch crappies have moved away from shore and now in 6 to 8 feet of water. Fishing is good for largemouth bass. Channel catfish are good using night crawlers or liver.

Prairie Rose (Shelby): Fishing is good for 7-inch crappies in 6 to 8 feet of water using jigs and minnows around rocks and woody structure. Bass fishing is good. Anglers catching channel catfish on liver. Fishing is good bluegills near shore.

DeSoto Bend (Harrison): Walleye and crappie fishing is fair. Walleyes being harvested are 15 to 16 inches. Anglers also are catching good numbers of largemouth bass. Carp are being caught near shore.

Southwest Iowa Farm Ponds: Bluegill and largemouth bass fishing is excellent. A lot of bluegill can be caught using night crawlers. Remember to ask permission and clean up your trash when fishing on private land.

For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

Southeast

Mississippi River – Pools 16 – 19: Fishing on the Mississippi River has been fair. The water temperature at Muscatine on Pool 16 is 72 degrees and the river pool stage is 15.04 and is expected to continue to drop over the next few days. Pools 17 to 19 are above flood levels, but are expected to drop as well. Fishing conditions will be difficult on the main river with water levels at and slightly above flood levels. On **Pool 16** the Harbor area at Davenport has been good for walleye and sauger on crankbaits and jigs. **Pools 16 to 19** continue to be good for channel catfish on night crawlers, leeches and various baits. The channel catfish are spawning and are biting well. Look for catfish

close to shore in slower shallow flooded areas and backed up stream and creek channels. Fishing is best in the morning and evening hours. Pools 16 – 19 have been fair for bluegill and crappie in the backwater areas on bobber rigs and jigs tipped with minnows or worms. Anglers also report catching a few white bass.

Lake Odessa (Louisa): Nice crappies are still being caught along the tree falls in Sand Run and many of the deeper chutes and runs. Bluegills can still be found in the shallows where the second wave has moved into spawn.

Lake Darling (Washington): Surprisingly, crappies are staying in the four to six foot of water area with a few still moving into the shallows. The water is still muddy so using a bright colored twister tail could lead to some nice catches of crappies. The flatheads are also moving into the shallows on the prowl for small fish. A few green sunfish as bait might lead to a 30 to 40 pound flathead.

Lake Geode (Henry): Bluegill fishing has been good to excellent, depending on the weather, with fish up to 10 inches being caught. The first wave seems to have moved off the nest and to the edge of the weed line in 5 to 6 feet of water.

Lake Belva Deer (Keokuk): Bluegill fishing has been excellent. Slowly working a jig and worm or a worm and bobber in the shallow water will yield some nice 9 to 10-inch fish. The water is very clear so keep a low profile and noise to a minimum. Anglers are catching good numbers of the 10 to 12-inch bass and there are also some legal 15-inch fish being caught. Try fishing plastic worms around the flooded timber for the bass.

Lake Rathbun (Appanoose): Crappies have been hitting on small jigs and minnows fished along the face of the dam and other rocky shorelines.

Lake Sugema (Van Buren): Bluegills and crappies have been hitting on small jigs tipped with a wax worm or chunk of night crawler. Largemouth bass have been hitting on crankbaits and spinner baits.

Lake Miami (Monroe): Crappies and bluegills have been biting on small jigs and minnows. Channel catfish have been hitting on night crawlers.

Lake Wapello (Davis): Largemouth bass have been hitting on artificial lures fished around shoreline structure. The spillway work is finished and the lake has filled.

Lake Macbride (Johnson): Crappie fishing has been fair on small jigs tipped with small minnows or wax worms. Anglers also report a few walleyes being caught.

Coralville Reservoir (Johnson): Water levels continue to rise and the only open ramp is at Mehaffey Bridge.

Pleasant Creek (Linn): Bluegill and perch fishing is good on worms, wax worms and leeches. Look for spawning bluegills in the shallows. Walleyes are being taken with leeches and small crankbaits, mostly in depths of 6 to 8 feet. White bass fishing is fair on live bait and artificials. Some channel catfish are being caught on live/dead bait, on the bottom and on slip bobbers. Largemouth bass fishing has been excellent on live and artificial baits. Remember there is an 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth at Pleasant Creek.

Kent Park Lake (Johnson): Fishing is fair to good for largemouth bass and bluegills. Some channel catfish are also being caught in the evening.

Diamond Lake (Poweshiek): Fishing is good for channel catfish and bluegills. Look for spawning bluegills in the shallows.

Hannen Lake (Benton): Bluegills are being caught around brush. Largemouth bass are being caught on artificials.

Otter Creek (Tama): Yellow bass fishing is fair. Use small lures/baits for these smaller fish.

Rodgers Lake (Benton): Bluegills are being caught around brush and in the shallows. Largemouth bass are also being caught.

Skunk River (Washington): The river finally returned to its banks on Sunday at Brighton.

Iowa River (Louisa): The river is expected to return to within its banks sometime on Wednesday, according to USGS.

For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.

Northeast

Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15: The Mississippi River at Guttenberg is 70 degrees and the water is cloudy from recent rains and high water events. The gates are still open at **Lock and Dams 9 and 10** and water levels are projected to continue to rise through mid week. Crappies and bluegills are biting in Bussey Lake (lower **Pool 10**). A small jig tipped with a minnow or worm is the lure of choice for these hungry panfish. Bluegills and white bass are also being taken with small jigs or worms on a hook fished in the tailwater areas of **L/D 9** at Lynxville, Wis., and **L/D 10** at Guttenberg. Freshwater drum fishing is excellent using a simple sliding sinker and worm in **Pools 9 to 11**. People who overlook drum as a game species are ignoring a fun and tasty fish. The best way to keep drum is to immediately place them in a cooler on ice. Also, cut out most of the red meat on the fillets for the best eating. Drum can be found in nearly any area with moderate current such as the wing dams, side channels or tailwater areas below the dams. Freshwater drum and channel catfish are biting along rocky shorelines in **Pool 12 and 13**. Bluegill fishing is good in the backwater areas in **Pool 12** and Middle Sabula Lake in **Pool 13**. Channel catfish are hitting floating leeches or night crawlers fished along the rocky shorelines in **Pool 14**. Some walleyes are also taking jigs and night crawlers fished along riprap in **Pool 14**.

The interior rivers in northeast Iowa are beginning to clear up and fishing success is improving.

Cedar River (Black Hawk): Channel catfish are biting night crawlers fished in slow moving (slack) water. The upper stretches of the Cedar River (Mitchell and Floyd) are still high and muddy.

Volga Lake (Fayette): Bluegill fishing is excellent. Crappie fishing is good on jigs and/or minnows.

Lake Hendricks (Howard): Bluegill fishing is excellent on a piece of worm fished under a bobber.

Big Woods and South Prairie Lakes (Black Hawk): Crappie fishing is good on jig and minnows. Largemouth bass are biting. Bluegill fishing is good on red worms and wax worms in most Black Hawk County lakes.

Casey Lake (Tama) in Hickory Hills Park is good for bluegills on jigs and night crawlers. Largemouth bass are being picked up with a variety of lures (crankbaits, rubber worms and spinner baits).

Trout stream conditions are improving. For current trout stocking information on northeast Iowa trout streams, call the trout stocking hotline at 563-927-5736. You can

also access the trout stocking calendar through the internet at www.iowadnr.com and go to the fish and fishing web pages.

For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.

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